

District Supervisors Report

Nov, 28, 1934

Territory; Hancock, Pearl River, Lamar, Lawrence, Jefferson Davis, Marian and Walthall Counties.

During the last half of November very few cases of screw worms were reported, practically all the requests for screw worm supplies that came in were from farmers that were planning to castrate the hogs they intended to kill this winter before they were turned in the fields for fattening.

We had a project in Hancock County using Relief Labor scouting the ranges burning carcasses. The results were fair during the first part of the month but during the last half practically no carcasses could be found. This project is discontinued as the Labor can be better utilized repairing roads. Nothing has been heard from Washington about the proposed carcass burning project in Pearl River County.

Since the cool weather set in very little interest has been taken in the traps and those that have been kept baited very few flies were caught, the number of flies caught doesn't justify the effort required to keep the traps baited.

Since the Stockmen have learned how to treat worm cases and that materials for this purpose was available at the County Agent's office very few animals have died from screw worm injury, about the only exception is among the sheepmen. The losses among the sheep has been very little since the ear tick disappeared about the middle of October. Very little was done toward treating the sheep the owners claimed that the present prices didn't justify the work that was necessary in penning the animals for treatment.

About the only thing the stockowners plan to do this winter toward controlling the screw worms is to burn the grass on this cut-over land. In sections where this has been done every year the ear tick hasn't been as bad as in unburned areas and they think that in controlling the ear tick they will lessen the screw worm injury. In Hancock County the landowners are paying for fire protection but they plan to burn most of the ranges some time this winter. Along the river in Pearl River and Hancock Counties where the stock is dipped every 14 days for the fever tick practically no animals have been lost on account of screw worm injury.

We have tried to collect ear ticks in order to determine the effectiveness of range burning in their control at the McNeil Experiment Station but none have been collected. The dipping Inspectors report that none have been found within the last two months. The stockmen outside this area that's being dipped don't like to have their stock inspected for fear that fever ticks might be found and this would cause them to dip out again. The only animals that could be examined are those that are kept confined and no ticks were present.

Respectfully submitted

M. Brunson

F.E.R.A. SCREW WORM CONTROL, MISSISSIPPI

Report of

District Supervisor

Nov. 16 to 29, 1934

Territory: Forrest, Perry, Wayne, Jones, and Covington counties.

Since November 16 approximately two gallons each of pine tar oil and benzol has been issued to 23 persons to treat 97 cases of screw worms. This material was issued through the county agents offices and the agents report that they do not have any more requests for material and have not had many this last week. Several of these cases reported have been found to be old cases not healed out, and not active cases.

Soil temperature readings were recorded up to November 20th, or until the mercury tube was broken while pushing the thermometer in the ground. The wood was flexible and perhaps a slight spring in the wood crushed the bulb against the brass tip. The average soil temperature readings for this period were as following: Surface temperature 66 degrees, two inches below surface 61 degrees, and four inches below surface 59 degrees.

All efforts to collect Gulf Coast ticks seemed to be in vain. A few animals were examined, but the woods tick was all there was to be found. A number of cattle owners were visited and a few promised to get animals up for inspection as soon as they were through with syrup, etc. Some of these fellows will pen their cattle for us if we could be here when they get ready to do that. A few are reasonable and want the tick work done, but others are opposed to any tick work except woods burning. Many of the farmers or ranchmen say they are going to burn woods in February regardless of any opposition.

There will probably be ample opportunities to check the results of woods burning here next year. No doubt there will be many sections burned and there will be other sections controlled by forestry camps that will not be burned. I feel sure that some valuable experiments could be arranged if the money is available. There is hardly any way to check up on the ticks present on certain areas at this season, but a certain number of animals could be inspected at regular intervals on burned and unburned areas next summer and fall, and get at tick control. This might be done through the winter at McNeill to determine number before burning, or for a comparison.

Submitted by,

W. B. Hollingsworth
W. B. Hollingsworth

Dec. 1934

F. E. R. A. SCREW WORM CONTROL

State of Mississippi

Supervisor's Report: F. M. Prince
Nov. 15 to Dec. 1, 1934

The screw worm outbreak in the northern district has gradually diminished for the past two weeks until there is seldom a case reported at present. The county agents contacted report that they have had very few calls for material or other aid for screw worms in the past three weeks.

When I visited the E. R. A. processing division in Meridian, the superintendent of the yards informed me that they were receiving a number of cases in cattle shipped from the southern part of the state. He also stated that the number of screw worms cases had diminished considerably in the past two or three weeks.

There have been some heavy rains and cool weather in this district, and the cattlemen and farmers have been marking and castrating a great deal. I have been asked by a number of men if the weather was cool enough for this work to be continued, and my advice was that they would have no more trouble with screw worms this year.

Soil temperature readings have been recorded daily in different counties and mailed to D. C. Parmen, Uvalde, Texas.

